

People Get Ready

When someone bears down hard on you
in the words you are reading
don't take it hard
for this is poetry

someone takes off his clothes for
poetry!
and sings the song of the beautiful animals

If you are that someone, you are beautiful too

& welcome here in the Poetry Kingdom

Here, we take a seat and watch the action
the way a gentle anarchist hands out leaflets
isn't really doing much tonight

but later, later when you think he's fast asleep on
someone's floor

He's out changing the world!

And you go with it

a little secret on the edge
of your seat

CALIFORNIA PEOPLE

for Jim Koller

It's fun to be travelling again aren't we lucky?
I like this country

(sometimes)

You can go from east to west in it
You can take an airplane back & forth across it

bus

hitch

or a car

You can see whole new land

rugged country plains

high cliffs

dangerous waves

You can see different kinds of animals right in the middle of the road!

(lookout)

& smell the eucalyptus

but PEOPLE, don't forget PEOPLE!

They are friendly in California

at least the ones I've met

They smile, they like animals, they ask a lot of interesting questions.